



By the King.

A Proclamation for the maintenance and encrease of
the Mines of Saltpeter, and the true making of Gunpowder,
and reforming abuses concerning the same.



He King Our Soueraine Lord, taking into serious and prouident consideration, the most necessary and important vse of Gunpowder, as well for supply of his owne Royall Navy, and the shipping of his louing Subjects, as otherwise for the strength, safetie, and defence of his people and Kingdomes, and how great a blessing it is of Almighty God to this Realme, That it naturally yeeldeth sufficient Mines of Saltpeter for making of Gunpowder, for defence of it selfe, without any necessitie to depend vpon the dangerous, chargeable, and casuall supply thereof from foreigne parts; hath, (with the aduice of his Prinie Councell) concluded and set downe certaine Orders and Constitutions, to be from hencefoorth inuolably kept and obserued, for the better maintaining of the breed and encrease of Saltpeter, and the true making of Gunpowder, and for reforming and suppressing all abuses concerning the same, in these Articles following.

1. First, That no person or persons whatsoeuer, within this Kingdome of England, or Dominion of Wales, doe from hencefoorth pauer with Stone or Bricke, or floore with Board any Douerhouse, or Douercoat, or lay the same with Lime, Sand, Grauell, or other thing, whereby the growth and encrease of the Mine of Saltpeter may be hindered or impaired, But shall suffer the floore or ground thereof to lie open, with good and mellow earth, apt to breed encrease of the said Mine and Saltpeter, and so continue and keepe the same.

2. That no Inne-keepers, or others, that keepe Stables for trauellers and passengers, doe vse any deceitfull meanes or deuices, whereby to destroy or hinder the growth of Saltpeter in those Stables; And that no Stables at all be pitched, pauered or grauelled, where the Horse feet vse to stand, but planked onely, Nor be pauered, pitched or grauelled, before the planks next the mangers, but that both places be kept and maintained with good and mellow earth, fit and apt to breed and encrease the Mine of Saltpeter, and laide with nothing which may hurt the same.

3. That all and euery such person and persons, as hauing heretofore had any Douerhouse, Douercoat or Stable, (which were then good nourceries for the breed of Mine of Saltpeter) haue since carried out the good mould from thence, and filled the place againe with Lime, grauell, sand, rubbish, or other like stuffe, or pauered or floored the same, whereby the growth of Saltpeter Mine there, hath beene decayed or destroyed; shall, and doe within thre moneths next comming, take by the sayde pauements and boards againe, and cary out the said Grauell, Lime and offensive stuffe from thence, and fill the place againe with good and mellow earth, fit for the encrease of Saltpeter, thre foote deepe at the least, and so continue and keepe the same for the breed of Saltpeter Mine.

4. That no person or persons, of what degree or estate soever, shall hinder or deny any Saltpeter-man, lawfully deputed thereunto, in the digging, taking, or working of any ground or earth, which by Commission may be taken and wrought for Saltpeter; Nor any Constable, or other Officer doe, or shall forbear or neglect to furnish any such Saltpeter-man, with convenient carriages necessary for his worke; And that all and every Justice and Justices of the Peace of any Countie, City, or Corporation, to whom the sayd Saltpeter man shall addresse himselfe for assistance, doe not faile, at his and their perils, to take present course therein, That his Majesties Service suffer not by his or their default.

5. That no person or persons, shall directly or indirectly, give or offer to any Saltpeter-maker, Deputie Saltpeter-man, or others, imployed about the getting or making of Saltpeter, any gratuitie, benefit, hire or reward; Nor any such workeman, imployed about Saltpeter, shall take or receive any such gratuitie, benefit, hire or reward, for the sparing or forbearing of any ground or place, which should or may bee digged or wrought for Saltpeter, or of any carriages thereunto belonging, or for concealing, or not discovering of any offence or offences, committed against the true meaning of this Proclamation, or otherwise to the hinderance of this Service.

6. That no Saltpeter-man, who shall hereafter vse and take the earth or flooze of any Dovehouse or Dovecoat, for their making of Saltpeter, shall digge or cary the same earth, but in such convenient time of the day, and worke it in such maner, as may give least disturbance and hurt to the Pigeons, and encrease of their breed; and in the chiefe times of breeding, that it bee not done above two houres in any one day, and that about the midst of the day, when the Pigeons vse to be abroad; And shall in like seasonable time, cary in the said earth after it shal be wrought, and spread it there, and make flat the flooze of the same Dovehouse and Dovecoat, and leane it well and orderly, according to the Direction and Instructions given by his Majesties Commission, and the Deputation thereupon made vnto him.

7. That all Saltpeter-men and workers in Saltpeter, after they haue broken any other sorts of ground, and wrought ouer the earth taken from thence, doe, and shall afterwards within convenient time, before the remooue of their worke from thence, fill vp the place againe, and leane it in such good and orderly case as they found the same, according to their Instructions aforesaid; And that no owner or possessor of any Dovehouse, or Grounds, shall hinder or disturbe any workemen from doing what is prescribed in this, and the next precedent Article.

8. That no person or persons whatsoever, doe at any time hereafter make, or cause to be made for Service against any enemy, or for Sale, any Gunpowder of any Saltpeter, made, or to be made within the Realme of England, or Dominion of Wales, but of such Saltpeter onely, as is or shall be made by Warrant of his Majesties Commission, granted or to be granted in that behalfe.

9. That no Saltpeter-man or maker of Saltpeter, doe at any time hereafter transport, or cause to be transported into the parts beyond the Seas, or sell, give, utter, or put to sale, or cause to be sold, uttered, or put to sale within the said Realme or Dominion, any Saltpeter, made within the sayd Realme of England, but onely to his Majesties Storehouse, to his Majesties Powder-maker there: And that no person presume to buy any Saltpeter, made by vertue of his Majesties Commission, but his Majesties Powder-maker onely, to whom it shall not be lawfull to receive for any Powder to be solde by him to his Majesties Subiects, above ten pence the pound.

10. That no Powder whatsoever, either made within the Realme, or imported from forreigne parts, be hereafter solde or uttered within this Realme, or Dominions aforesaid, by any person or persons, before the same be first tryed, prooued, and allowed by the sworne Prooofe-master, already appointed or to be appointed, and by him marked, as hath bene heretofore vled, whereby his Majesties loving Subiects may take notice of the sorts of the said Gunpowder, and the goodnesse thereof, and the vles to which it may most aptly be applyed.

11. That no person presume or attempt to counterfeit the marke or markes, vled, or to be vled by the said Prooofe-master, to the purpose aforesaid, Or doe worke or put in practise any fraud, deceit, or sleight, by mixing or mingling any Gunpowder, or otherwise, whereby his Majesties meaning, before expressed, may be altered, diuerted, or abused.

12. That the Proofer-master, appointed and to be appointed, doe diligently attend to doe his dutie faithfully and truely, in making proofer of the sayd Gunpowder, and to marke none but that which shall be good and sufficient, and answerable to the markes; And that hee take not above six pence Fee, for any Barrell of Powder of one hundred weight, which shall by him be tried, prooued, and marked as aforesaid, and so proportionably not above that rate, for greater or lesser quantities.

ALl which Articles, and euery of them, his Maestie doeth hereby straitly charge and command all manner of persons, of what quality soeuer they be, duely to obserue and fulfill; And all Officers and persons in Authority, whom it may concerne, duely, carefully and diligently to see, and cause the same to be obserued, fulfilled, and put in execution, as they, and euery of them, will auoyde his Maesties heauy displeasure, and the censure of being holden conteniners of his Maesties Royal Commandement, in a matter of high consequence, for the publique seruice and safety of the State, and vpon such further penalties and punishments, as for example of terror to others, their contempts and want of duety shall demerit, and by his Maesties Prerogative Royall, or otherwise, shall be found fit in Honour and Justice to be inflicted vpon them.

And for the better and more speedy performance of this Seruice, his Maesties Will and pleasure is, That the commissioners for the Naue, shall from time to time take notice of all such complaints, as shall be brought vnto them, touching any offence that shall be committed, contrary to this Proclamation, either in the neglecting, hindring, or disturbing this his Maesties Seruice, or in abusing the Subiect: And that the said Commissioners shall certifie the same, to his Maesties right trustie, and right welbeloued Cousen and Councelloz, George Duke of Buckingham, Lord high Admirall of England, and to his right trustie and welbeloued Councelloz, George, Lord Carew, Master of the Ordnance, to whose spectall trust and care, his Maestie hath committed the Government of the sayd Businesse, by Commission vnder the great Seale of England: And that they, or either of them, shall from time to time send for all offenders complained of, and cause them to be examined by the sayd Commissioners of the Naue; And vpon their report, take such further order therein, by referring the offenders to be prosecuted in the high Court of Starre-chamber, or otherwise, as to their wisedomes shall seeme meete; Commanding and authorizing his Maesties Attourney Generall, for the time being, vpon such Reference from the sayd Duke of Buckingham, or Lord Carew, or other information giuen vnto him, of any misdemeanour committed, contrary to the true meaning of any the Articles aforesaid, to prosecute and proceed against the said offenders, in the said high Court of Starre-chamber; It being his Maesties expresse pleasure, That seuerer punishment shall be executed vpon all the said offenders whatsoeuer.

Giuen at the Court at White-Hall, the thirteenth day of Aprill, in the first yeere of his Maesties Reigne of Great Britaine, France and Ireland.

God saue the King.



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to the Kings most Excellent Maestie.

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